

**COMPREHENSIVE
CONSERVATION
PLANS FOR
NATIONAL WILDLIFE
REFUGES**

PURPOSE

**Develop a Management Plan
for Refuges Dealing with:**

- Wildlife Management**
- Habitat Management**
- Public Use**
- Law Enforcement**
- Land Use**
- Management of Adjacent Land**
- Compatibility of the Public
Use With Refuge's Mission**

COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION PLANNING STEPS

1. PREPLANNING

- Establish Vision and Goals**
- Determine Planning Area**
- Assemble Available Data**
 - Wildlife Populations**
 - Vegetative Communities**
 - Geology and Soils**
- Identify Data Gaps**

2. INITIATE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH

- Federal Register Notices**
- Letters to Interested Parties**
- Press Releases**
- Public Forums**
- Invitations for Comments**

3. IDENTIFY THE ISSUES

- Biology Issues**
 - Threatened and Endangered Species**
 - Other Trust Species and Priority Species**
 - Habitat Requirements**
- Land Management Issues**
 - Burning**
 - Water Control**
 - Forest Management**
 - Agriculture**

- **Public Use Issues**
 - **Hunting**
 - **Fishing**
 - **Wildlife Observation**
 - **Wildlife Photography**
 - **Environmental Interpretation**
 - **Environmental Education**
- **Law Enforcement Issues**
 - **Safety**
 - **Access and Trespass**
- **Research**
 - **Monitoring**
 - **Data Collection**
 - **Applied Technology**

- **Human Resources**
 - **Staffing Needs**
 - **Volunteer Program**
 - **Friends Groups**
 - **Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society**
 - **Partners**

4. DEVELOP AND ANALYZE ALTERNATIVES

- Based on:**
 - Public Input**
 - Staff Recommendations**
 - Best Available Scientific Data**
 - Subject Matter Experts**

5. PREPARE DRAFT PLAN

- Determine Compatibility
e.g., Beach Access vs.
Loggerhead Sea Turtle
Nesting**
- Review Internally**
- Review By Public at Public Forums**

6. PREPARE AND ADOPT FINAL PLAN

- Public Comment Analysis**
- Public Comment Response**
- Environmental Assessment**
- Internal Review**
- Public Notice in Federal Register**

7. IMPLEMENT PLAN MONITOR RESULTS EVALUATE RESULTS

- Analyze Effects of Plan**
- Monitor Wildlife**
- Monitor Vegetation**
- Evaluate Public Use Impacts**
- Evaluate Law Enforcement**

8. REVIEW AND REVISE PLAN

- Analyze Results of Monitoring**

- Revise Plan to Improve Results**

 - e.g., Alter Frequency of**

 - Burning or Timing of Water
Management to Change
Effects**

- Revise Plan to Reflect Budget
Constraints**

- Maintain Public Involvement**

**MATTAMUSKEET
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE**

ESTABLISHMENT AND ACQUISITION AUTHORITY

**THE REFUGE WAS ACQUIRED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE
NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RECOVERY ACT (48 STATUTE 195)
AND WAS ESTABLISHED UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 6924
IN 1934.**

REFUGE PURPOSES

**“...as a refuge and breeding ground for birds and wild
animals, and (2) that such portion as the Secretary of
Agriculture (Interior) may deem proper be reserved for use
as a shooting area, ... said waters may be used for fishing
purposes ...” Executive Order 6924, dated December 18,
1934.**

WILDLIFE SPECIES OF MANAGEMENT INTEREST

TUNDRA SWAN

CANADA GOOSE

SNOW GOOSE

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK

NORTHERN PINTAIL

CANVASBACK

WOOD DUCK

BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER

KING RAIL

YELLOW RAIL

SOLITARY SANDPIPER

SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPER

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER

PEREGRINE FALCON

BALD EAGLE

OSPREY

WHITE-TAILED DEER

CAROLINA PYGMY RATTLESNAKE

RED WOLF

ALEWIVES (HERRING)

HABITAT TYPES

(50,180 ACRES TOTAL)

40,000 ACRES OPEN WATER

3,000 ACRES ESTUARINE FRINGE LOBLOLLY PINE FOREST

2,650 ACRES IMPOUNDMENTS

2,430 ACRES NATURAL LAKE SHORELINE

1,500 ACRES CYPRESS/TUPELO SWAMP

400 ACRES FARMLAND

150 ACRES NONRIVERINE SWAMP FOREST

50 ACRES ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS

HABITAT MANAGEMENT

PRESCRIBED BURNING OF MARSH AND PINE FORESTLANDS

**WATER MANAGEMENT FOR WATERFOWL, SHOREBIRDS, AND
OTHER MIGRATORY BIRDS, AND FISH**

**MANAGEMENT OF IMPOUNDMENTS TO PROVIDE NATURAL
FOODS AND HABITATS FOR WATERFOWL AND OTHER
MIGRATORY BIRDS**

**MECHANICAL AND CHEMICAL CONTROL OF INVASIVE PLANT
SPECIES**

**FARMING FOR SUPPLEMENTAL FOODS TO BENEFIT WATERFOWL
AND OTHER WILDLIFE**

NON-CONSUMPTIVE RECREATION

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

ENVIRONMENTAL INTERPRETATION

HIKING/WALKING

PICNICKING

WILDLIFE OBSERVATION

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

CANOEING/BOATING

CONSUMPTIVE RECREATION

FISHING/CRABBING

**HUNTING (WATERFOWL,
DEER)**

NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS

ENTIRE REFUGE LAND AND LAKE AREA

REGISTERED HERITAGE AREA

ENTIRE REFUGE LAND AND LAKE AREA

RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK

SAYLER'S RIDGE

**ANADROMOUS FISH
SPAWNING AREAS
ENTIRE LAKE**

PROPOSED WILDERNESS

**HERON BAY ISLAND
GREAT ISLAND
HEAD OF LAKE ISLAND**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
MATTAMUSKEET LODGE**

RESOURCE AND VISITOR PROTECTION

**LAW ENFORCEMENT PROVIDED BY ONE FULL TIME REFUGE OFFICER
SHARED WITH FIVE OTHER REFUGES AND TWO COLLATERAL REFUGE
OFFICERS**

**ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY NCWRC CONSERVATION OFFICERS AND
OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

**INFORMATION AND REGULATORY LEAFLETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AT THE MATTAMUSKEET NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE**

**SOME REGULATORY SIGNAGE IS POSTED AT APPROPRIATE
LOCATIONS**

RESOURCE AND VISITOR PROTECTION ISSUES

LITTERING

POACHING

TRESPASS

VANDALISM

FISHING AND BOATING VIOLATIONS

DRUG AND ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS

HUNTING VIOLATIONS

REPTILE COLLECTING

DRAINAGE DITCHES

BOUNDARY ISSUES

WILDLIFE DISTURBANCE